



**COL Gloria
Blake, USA,
DDKS
Commander**

COL Gloria Blake, USA DDKS Commander

COL Blake comes to DDKS after commanding the Combat Equipment Battalion-Kuwait, in Camp Doha, Kuwait, from June 2001 to July 2002. Her previous positions also include Deputy, Future Warfare Division, Futures Center in Fort Monroe, VA; Logistics Plans Officer for U.S. Army Forces Command headquarters in Fort McPherson, GA; Battalion Executive Officer for the Basic Training command Group in Fort McClellan, AL; and Supply Management Officer for the U.S. Army Logistical Center in Fort Lee, VA.

COL Blake is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College, the Quartermaster Officer Basic and Advanced Course and the Army Force Modernization Course. She received a master's degree in Personnel Management from Central Michigan University in 1995. Her awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with six oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait), the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Master Parachutist Badge, and the Parachute Rigger Badge.

DDC Activates Distribution Site in Kuwait

By Jessica Walter-Groft, DDC Command Affairs

On August 30, 2004, the Defense Distribution Center (DDC) activated Defense Distribution Depot Kuwait, Southwest Asia (DDKS) based on a request from U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM).

Becoming DDC's 24th distribution site around the world to provide logistics support to the Warfighter, the primary focus of DDKS will be supporting military customers in the Middle East.

DDKS, a forward theater distribution platform, is strategically located to reduce both transportation and customer wait time. By pre-positioning highly demanded items closer to the Warfighter prior to the customer's request, DDC can transport the materiel by surface instead of further stressing the expensive and limited military airlift resources. "By positioning these items in Kuwait, we will observe more than \$160 million in air transportation cost avoidance, and significantly reduce customer wait time," said DDC Commander COL (P) Mike Lally, USA, during the activation ceremony.

DDKS is commanded by COL Gloria Blake, USA, who will oversee the work of a blended workforce of government employees and employees from a contract partner-the Public Warehousing Company, a third party logistics provider.

In addition to routine distribution services, DDKS also has the capability to



**COL Blake receives the organization
flag from COL (P) Lally in the
September 15 ceremony.**

provide surge support to the Warfighters in the Middle East. Currently, the stock at DDKS is primarily repair parts, barrier and construction material, clothing, textiles and tent-related items.

DDKS, is not, however, DDC's first forward distribution site serving the Middle East region. DDC recently transferred the distribution operation from DDZZ in Bahrain to DDKS. DDZZ stocked 35 Class IV items, and DDKS is the more permanent and robust version of DDC's Southwest Asia support mission. DDKS currently stocks about 7,000 items with the potential to add tens of thousands more in the future.

COL Blake said she is proud to be a part of the DDKS team providing support to the Warfighters in the region. "Our goal is to ensure our customers' readiness, so we are committed to providing the right item at the right time every time."



Trained distribution employees were needed to stand up the new distribution site. From left to right: **Johnny Akines (DDDE), Lt Col Mike Nowaczyk, USAF (DDC Strategic Plans Office), Christopher Newland (DDDE), Chuck Personeus (DDSP), Wayne Galloway (DDSP), LTC Clayton Newton, USA (DDC Strategic Plans Office), COL Gloria Blake, USA (DDKS Commander), Valerie Hall (DDJC), Ray Chapman (DDPH), and Terry Dobbs (DDSP).**